Re: Minassian, Alek
D.O.B.: November 3, 1992

March 11, 2020

Dear Dr. Woodside,

Thank you for the referral of the aforementioned individual who is being assessed for criminal responsibility in relation to charges of 1st Degree Murder x10 and Attempt Murder x16. As per your request, and with Mr. Minassian's consent, the following individuals were contacted for collateral information:

- Mr. [redacted] Minassian, Mr. Alek Minassian's father
- Ms. [redacted] Minassian, Mr. Alek Minassian's mother
- Mr. [redacted] Minassian, Mr. Minassian's brother
- Mr. Ismael [redacted], Mr. Minassian's friend

Unfortunately writer was unable to conduct fulsome interviews with Mr. Michael [redacted] due to lack of access to contact information, or Mr. Ismael [redacted] (details provided below).

Informed Consent and Limits of Confidentiality
All interviewees were informed of the purpose of the interview and of the limits of confidentiality. They were informed that their answers to the questions would be written in a report that will be provided to the assessing psychiatrist and ultimately the court. They were informed that their participation in the interview was voluntary and that they could refuse to answer any question(s) and could stop the interview at any time. Writer encouraged interviewees to pose questions as needed. Interviewees informed that they understood the nature of the interview and the limits to confidentiality and agreed to participate in the interview.

Initial contact with Mr. [redacted] Minassian
Date/time: November 27, 2019; 1650 hrs to 1705 hrs

Writer contacted Mr. [redacted] Minassian and explained the purpose of the interview, informed consent, the voluntary nature of the interview, and above-noted limits of confidentiality. At this time, he requested writer's interview questions be provided via email, and stated that he, Ms. [redacted] Minassian, and Mr. [redacted] Minassian would provide their responses in writing together and send back to writer. During this conversation, Mr. Dad Minassian impressed as wary of writer's request, indicating the visibility and media attention of Mr. Minassian's case, and alluded to calls from other individuals for information following the index offence. Writer informed she would consult with Dr. Woodside regarding his request.

In February, 2020, writer was informed that Mr. [redacted] Minassian, Ms. [redacted] Minassian, and Mr. [redacted] Minassian were agreeable to speaking with writer, and contact was made via telephone in March, 2020. Reports provided below.

Contact with Mr. Ismael [redacted]
Dates/times: November 27, 2019; 1645 hrs to 1650 hrs
November 29, 2019; 1445 hrs to 1450 hrs, and 1505 hrs to 1510 hrs
March 3, 2020; 1615 hrs – 1620 hrs

Writer initially attempted to contact Mr. [redacted] on November 27, 2019. As Mr. [redacted] was not available at this time, writer left a message requesting he call back, and requested he indicate date/times he was available to speak via voicemail if writer is unable to answer.

On November 29, 2019, Mr. [redacted] left voicemail for writer indicating he received the aforementioned message, and requested to be contacted via text message. Writer attempted to arrange interview time via text message. At this time, Mr. S[redacted] requested the conversation be continued via email, and provided an email address.

On March 3, 2020, writer attempted to connect again with Mr. [redacted] via telephone. As there was no response, writer left voicemail, however did not hear back.

Collateral report from Mr. [redacted] Minassian (herein referred to as Dad), Mr. Minassian's father
Interview date/time: March 4, 2020; 1400 hrs to 1605 hrs

Writer interviewed Dad, Mr. Minassian's father, on Wednesday, March 4, 2020 for approximately 125 minutes. Throughout the interview Dad frequently commented on the "vagueness" of open-ended questions, despite writer explaining that questions posed are part of a standard interview template. Writer additionally explained the purpose of open-ended questions (i.e. to allow interviewees to communicate what they deem most significant, to elicit personal thoughts, feelings, attitudes, and experiences regarding the subject, etc.). He was noted to frequently ask for clarification when open-ended questions were posed. Writer noted he appeared to be somewhat guarded, specifically when asked about what he would change about Mr. Minassian, as well as his thoughts about Mr. Minassian's level of mental wellness (see below). This was evidenced by curt responses. Notably, Dad communicated to writer that it was not his intention to be "difficult," and expressed a desire to answer questions accurately.

He described his relationship with his son as "very good. As you probably know by now, he was diagnosed with autism at a very early age. And as a result of that, myself and Mom have had to support him along the way . . . so if nothing else, we developed a very close relationship as a result of that." Regarding the nature of the support he and Mom provided, he stated "in general, he has . . . one of the manifestations of autism is he had difficulty interacting with other kids, paying attention in class in certain subjects, strong in certain subjects and others he was wasn't. . . . Think of it like a coach, whether it's interacting, with class, we did our best to be aware and help him out."

Regarding whether Mr. Minassian would seek out the support of him and Mom if something was bothering him, Dad explained, "that's a generic question. It also one of

those things that I might not necessarily remember." At Dad's request, writer clarified the question and provided examples of how some individuals may seek emotional support in times of emotional dysregulation (e.g. inform how they are feeling, identify injustices, ask for help, etc.). Dad explained, "in general, I don't know if, I guess this is true of kids on the spectrum. . . . he's not that talkative, he's very literal . . . the way you and I might volunteer information to each other, he lacks." He provided an "extreme" example indicating that Mr. Minassian would ask for help in some situations, such as if he fell and broke his leg, however would not volunteer information in other situations, which he attributed to Mr. Minassian's experience with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Dad added, "we may not know what [exactly is] on his mind, but if there was something on his mind that bothered him, we would definitely know. Both myself and my wife are very close with him . . . I guess the analogy, like in any relationship, you might not know something is on their mind, but if something's bothering the person, we would know. We can read him, we could read his face." Regarding what would indicate that something is bothering Mr. Minassian, Dad explained, "that's an even more difficult question. I mean, how does anyone know? Like, how do you know if your spouse had a bad day at work? . . . less talkative, somewhat more withdrawn that day, get shorter answers . . . [those are] examples, not saying it was specifically like that with him . . . I mean, that's how you know a person; their general mood, their sense of humour, how they're interacting compared to their normal self. [It's the] same sort of non-exact answer I would give . . . whether talking about Alek, a colleague, or a friend, and they're off from their usual day." He again reiterated Mr. Minassian's experience interacting with others as it relates to his experience with ASD, as noted above.

Regarding what Mr. Minassian is like as a person, Dad stated, "what aspect are we talking about? like physical, athletic ability? It's a very vague question you're talking about." Specifically regarding Mr. Minassian's personality, he explained, "if I could use one word to describe him, I would use gentle. He's a very, extremely gentle person. . . . Very non-confrontational . . . was very easy to get along with." In terms of what he believes Mr. Minassian's best qualities are, Dad again emphasized the "vagueness" of writer's question, while also noting "I want to be clear that I'm not trying to be difficult or to stall. I want to be careful and make sure I understand [the questions]." He advised, "definitely anyone that knows Alek, I'm sure they'll agree that he's a very gentle person. The other thing, if you know him . . . because of being on the spectrum he's always had difficulty interacting. Let me define that. You know some people would be very comfortable socializing with other people, in a family gathering . . . Alek . . . doesn't do small talk, for example. If you engage him in a conversation, you know, he would answer. How much of an answer you would get would depend largely on how much he was interested in the subject or how knowledgeable. . . . Overall, he was shy and not comfortable interacting with others."

On the subject of Mr. Minassian's interests or things that excite him, Dad explained, "excitement might be an exaggeration in Alek's case. It might have to do with a computer game. Sometimes he would show interest in . . . something interesting about science. If everyone's talking about the solar eclipse, or discovering the arctic, astronomy, physics. . . . And if he's talking to someone more his age, about a computer game, he would show interest. . . . In his case [referring to Mr. Minassian's experience

with ASD] he's not a person who is easily excitable. If you're asking me if he had a particular passion, no. Did he show interest in things, yes."

As part of writer's standard interview template, writer queried what Dad would change about Mr. Minassian if he could. Dad replied "I'm not sure if I want to answer it in that way. To me, to be honest, I think it's somewhat of an irrelevant question. It's hurtful for someone to ask that question. If your question was slightly different . . . it's a little offensive, to be honest. . . . People are what they are. . . . If you're asking me if I wish he didn't have this neurological disorder, I'm going to say yes. This should be obvious. . . . It would be this disorder, I wish it wasn't there. . . . Given the circumstances, it is the obvious answer. And in this context, I don't fail to see the purpose [this question] serves."

Personal and Developmental History

Dad stated Mr. Minassian was born in North York, Ontario; he could not recall any complications during Mom's pregnancy or delivery, though suggested writer ask Mom for further details. He informed Mr. Minassian "wasn't into group sports or anything like that, but one of the things he really enjoyed was trail biking and mountain biking . . . which is something I did a lot of with him . . . getting out in nature. . . . He loved that. His brother used to go with us. And then the standard stuff, going to movies, restaurants." He informed Mr. Minassian's relationship with his older brother, Brother, as "very good," both as children and into adulthood.

When asked to describe Mr. Minassian as a child, Dad stated "I think we covered some of this . . . when you say, 'what was he like,' are you asking about things he was interested in, or . . . sort of odd behaviours pertaining to autism? . . . [he] would watch cartoons, play on the computer, so do you want me to list all of those, or do you want me to list how he was out of ordinary compared to other children? As a child, some of the activities that he did . . . played some computer games, enjoyed watching TV shows, specifically cartoons. There was a particular show that escapes me now. . . . He was interested in reading books . . . he's always read books – novels, . . . things like factual books, we would buy from chapters . . . facts for kids. . . . He did not play group sports, probably mostly because he had difficulty interacting with others. . . . He enjoyed the outdoors, he absolutely loved going trail biking mountain biking."

Regarding whether Mr. Minassian found it challenging to follow rules as a child, Dad explained, "so, again, we have to . . . I can't say yes or no . . . depends on activity, time period . . . I can give examples. This is kind of related to when he was young and we started seeing things when he was young and different from his age group. In kindergarten . . . he used to go to this program in the morning and . . . he needed assistance putting on shoes and coat and needed prompting to do that . . . these things led us to go to the doctor and get his diagnosis officially . . . even starting in kindergarten, [he demonstrated] difficulty compared to others in his age group. . . . The other thing is his speech was delayed. He started talking late . . . I think when he was around three and a half years old and he was receiving speech therapy." Dad clarified that any challenges Mr. Minassian had with rule violation were not due to disrespect of authority or a challenging presentation, but difficulty understanding directions as it

relates to his experience with ASD. He added, "casually speaking is kind of lost [on him]," noting Mr. Minassian would respond more appropriately to direct commands.

Dad reported that Mr. Minassian had temper tantrums, "when he was very small, yes, he did. As time went on, and he got older, the tantrums went away." Regarding how Mr. Minassian was disciplined when he did something wrong, Dad explained, "so, for example, to begin with . . . it's not like he did a lot of things wrong . . . if anything, the quote unquote 'difficulties' or 'struggles' were dealing with his autism . . . not like a neighbourhood kid out playing soccer who didn't come home on time. . . . For a kid on the spectrum, a lot of that stuff didn't apply, to be honest." Dad provided an example illustrating if Mr. Minassian was told to do his homework but did not, the consequences were "time out, couldn't start playing the game [the following day] until [he] do[es] [his] homework [first] . . . time out and loss of privilege."

Regarding whether Mr. Minassian had many friends as a child, Dad informed "yes, he's had friends, but very, very few. . . . Most of the people he knew – okay so let me take a step back – so for a time he went to a school specifically for kids with autism, Giant Steps," indicating that Mr. Minassian's friends also lived with ASD. He continued "the few [friends] he's had through the mainstream school system were kids in the Special Education Program with him." Dad noted one exception in "grade one or two, one kid who was quote unquote 'normal,' for lack of a better word . . . that friendship lasted until [friend] moved away from the Toronto area."

Concerning female friends specifically, Dad stated, "I'm just thinking back now. We've had family friends, over time, especially when the kids were smaller, especially when you're socializing with other parents . . . know them from school or whatever . . . our friends with kids our kids' age[s], there were girls in those scenarios. Because it was a family environment . . . in general he was more comfortable with that." He continued, "he did play things like computer games with family friends, [I am] trying to think if he was sitting with girls, I think he was, when I look back. But these were cases when the familiarity was there." Dad further illustrated, "the example I always give is . . . imagine there are some people at a party who are very comfortable striking a conversation with anyone, can talk about anything, and Alek is the complete opposite with that."

On the topic of Mr. Minassian's experiences with psychiatrists, psychologists, or social workers as a child, Dad communicated "everything started with the fact that from a very young age he started exhibiting behaviours that were different from his peers . . . at some point that led us to getting a diagnosis at the hospital, Markham Stouffville Hospital . . . [his] initial diagnosis was Pervasive Developmental Disorder, and from that point on . . . the school board wanted documentation. . . . At the same time, based on the recommendations we were getting and our own research, we [connected with] Giant Steps. . . . It was the best fit for him based on the official diagnosis we were given." In terms of seeing a psychiatrist, he reported "no, not really. The recommendations that we were getting . . . it never came up that he should see a psychologist. [Dad stopped to inquire about the purpose of this question] . . . to tell you the truth, I don't remember if they had psychologist support at Giant Steps. They had everything there – speech

pathologists, people to help academically . . . almost like a full-serdade organization when it came to kids with autism."

Dad denied that Mr. Minassian ever initiated fights as a child, adding "if the situation was not so sad, I would laugh at the suggestion that Alek got in a fight." He reported that that Mr. Minassian was "definitely teased," maintaining that he and Mom were aware and "actively involved with the school system to make sure it didn't happen." He noted that "teachers were keeping an eye on it and would notify [us] . . . so that he's not basically being harassed." He added, "[it was] not like if he goes to school he's going to be beaten up, but being quote unquote 'different' . . . it was something we continued monitoring, and supporting him . . . but [teasing was] not . . . our focus was on education." He noted that he and Mom met with school staff regularly. Regarding how Mr. Minassian responded to being teased, Dad stated, "so first of all, again, if you remember what I mentioned, he's not the type of person who would express himself in that way. . . . It's nothing obvious, like that he came home crying or got beaten up . . . [a] couple of kids might go up and make a comment . . . [I am] trying to think of what teachers said about his reaction." Dad explained that Mr. Minassian's response "ranged from ignored them to laughed at it . . . I don't think he ever started crying or anything like that . . . laughed to just try to get along."

Traumatic/Adverse Childhood Experience(s)
Dad denied Mr. Minassian experienced or witnessed any trauma or abuse as a child.

Family History
Dad denied any family history of mental health issues, substance abuse, or criminal involvement.

Education History
Dad informed Mr. Minassian attended Seneca College for a computer-related program following his completion of high school. He described his grades as "in elementary and high school, mostly B's and C's . . . same thing when he went to college, and some A's as well." He reported that for Mr. Minassian, "[there were] certain things he was good at and certain things he was completely lost. Things like math, he was completely comfortable. Grade one, for example, maybe earlier, he could do two- to three-digit arithmetic in his head." He noted Mr. Minassian's difficulties summarizing or "giving thoughts on chapters of history books." He noted difficulties "keeping up" in the classroom. He denied Mr. Minassian had any difficulty with teachers, specifically denying any difficulties with female teachers (when canvassed by writer for same).

Dad explained, "[Mr. Minassian] was I guess considered a high functioning autistic kid . . . the goal at Giant Steps was over time to transition him into the mainstream education system . . . work with the schoolboard to transition him into the mainstream education system," noting he "received support up until the end of high school." Dad described the program at Giant Steps as "very intense, almost one-on-one. There would be a person working with him, not just teaching him academics, but everything . . . talking, he was speech delayed, tying his shoe laces, put on your jacket. Everything from little things to like, when you're talking to someone and making eye contact . . . that was a big thing

for Alek and almost everyone on the Autism Spectrum . . . [Giant Steps covered] everything about day to day life that he needs. . . . So it was very intense."

Relationship History
Regarding Mr. Minassian's relationship history, Dad reported "no romantic relationships that I know of."

Regarding whether anyone ever complained about Mr. Minassian's behaviour towards women, Dad explained, "no, the only . . . comment I have about that is that he was very shy . . . in general, he was a shy person . . . specifically, he would be extra shy with girls, but that was it. . . . He was very shy, extremely shy with girls." He continued, "if a girl talked to him, you could tell he was uncomfortable and would want to move onto the next thing, even more than his difficulty interacting with other kids. . . . Now mind you, the friends he did have, he was very comfortable with that."

Substance Use
Dad denied knowledge of any substance use, stating "we're not aware of [Mr. Minassian] ever [using] anything."

Mental Health History
When asked whether he believes Mr. Minassian has a mental illness or seemed mentally unwell, Dad expressed "I don't think that's a very fair question to ask . . . frankly I'm quite shocked that you would ask me a question like that . . . because we're not medical professionals to make those determinations, I've been telling you what we've gone through, and those diagnoses we've had, such as at Markham Stouffville Hospital, and organizations such as Giant Steps . . . so the thing that's come out, and everything that we've talked about . . .there were some things that were quote unquote 'awkward' about him . . . we talked about examples, and how it's all related to autism, and not because it's my opinion [but because of his official medical diagnosis]." He continued, "you're asking if he has a mental illness – how would I know that? I couldn't even begin to answer that. Theoretically, everything is possible, if you're asking me if it's possible, how can I know? . . . I'm at a loss of how I would be able to say if he has a mental illness."

Dad denied that Mr. Minassian ever reporting hearing voices or other auditory hallucinations. He denied any visual, olfactory, or gustatory hallucinations. He denied Mr. Minassian ever discussed strange or odd beliefs not shared by others, stating "in general, he didn't have any views." He denied Mr. Minassian ever believed he had special powers or abilities or ever believed he was an important person. He denied Mr. Minassian ever reported experiences related to thought insertion or thought broadcasting, or paranoia about a person or group of people trying to hurt or harm him. He denied Mr. Minassian exhibited any issues related to anger, or challenges with extreme moods (loneliness, sadness, etc.), stating "like I said, because – and I'm repeating myself – he's not the type of person who would sit down and spill his guts out to you."

Concerning whether he ever observed Mr. Minassian talking or laughing to himself, Dad stated, "on the topic of talking, and again a lot of these things were attributed to him

being on the spectrum . . . he would daydream a lot . . . he would be smiling about that . . . would daydream and talk under his breath when he was young and sort of continued into adulthood . . . hard to tell when it's a tic or talking under his breath . . . [he] had that his whole life." He informed when Mr. Minassian was a child, if they asked why he was smiling, he might share a funny memory or his thoughts, however did not share as an adult.

Regarding whether Mr. Minassian ever reported feeling very scared, worried, or frightened about anything, Dad advised "yes, the one thing that was sort of strange is, that sort of continued into almost adulthood. You know how if you hold two mirrors in front of each other you get these infinite number of images . . . for instance in public washrooms . . . for some reason he was terrified of seeing infinite images caused by mirrors . . . he would always be cautious walking into washrooms." He denied Mr. Minassian ever explained why, stating "we asked him, talked about it, [and he] would just say, 'that's how it is, that's how I feel.' . . . [Like] if someone asks if you like chocolate and you don't . . . he couldn't put his finger on it." Dad added, "similarly, if you're using a conferencing software like Skype or whatever, he was terrified of the potential of the voice echoing . . . not just his voice, anything that echoes. Also, he was scared of dogs for no apparent reason."

Regarding whether Mr. Minassian ever reported feeling detached or removed from others or the world around him, Dad reflected on the video footage of Toronto Police Serdades' interview with Mr. Minassian. He expressed "the whole situation is very strange. We're struggling to find the right words to describe [it]. Detached . . . sometimes that seems the right word to say. And the next day, in a different context, it's not quite right . . . when I watch it again and again in certain segments, he's been asked a question . . . and he's just describing that . . . so you ask me, if I've been a witness to an accident, I might say there was a pedestrian that was struck by a car . . . describing it like I'm not the cause of it. He's almost like a robot, in third person. It's almost like he's put on the spot and asked a question and he's just describing what happened out there."

Dad reported Mr. Minassian has a history of difficulty falling asleep, noting "he had tics – sometimes even now it shows. [..] It varies – hand movements, verbal tics . . . [he] would try to spit something out of his mouth. For that he's seen a specialist for that, they told us it's tics and he was on medication for a while for that. . . . Sometimes he would have difficulty falling asleep, he would be fidgety . . . if you would walk by his room and would peek in you might see him doing mouth movements and hand movements."

Dad denied that Mr. Minassian ever expressed thoughts about suicide or ever attempted to die by suicide. Regarding a history of self-injurious behaviours, he noted "The only time was [when] he was very, very small and . . . I think he was around one year old, and that was the first thing [that motivated seeing a physician]. . . . He would stand close to the wall and hit his head to the wall. It was never violent . . . it was more like a tap. So obviously the first time we saw that we sort of panicked [and monitored him] . . . would place our hand between his head and the wall. [It was] not violent, like banging his head to the wall, just standing there with almost no expression on his face,

tapping his head to the wall. . . . No matter how gentle, we were concerned. . . . That didn't last long, I think it was probably just a few months."

Criminal History
Dad reported that Mr. Minassian had no criminal history prior to the index offence.

Index Offence
Dad denied noticing any dramatic changes in Mr. Minassian's routine or behaviour in the days, weeks, or months prior to the index offence, stating "definitely nothing out of the ordinary in the day or week or month before." He further denied Mr. Minassian experienced any significant losses during that period of time. He noted "regarding his mood, he was even, if I focused on his mood he seemed even better. He was more engaged, finishing school so he was happy about that . . . he was looking for jobs, he had a job offer." Dad referred to Mr. Minassian's enrolment in the military and noted that he continued exercising upon return. He continued, "his mood was generally more upbeat . . . he was looking – it's almost like he was planning for all the things he's gonna do now once he finished school, get a job, buy a car. . . . I remember he said 'I can't park my car in the driveway because we already have two cars there, could we widen the driveway so I can fit my car there,' things like that."

Regarding any changes he observed in Mr. Minassian when he saw him in the days following the index offence, Dad stated "it's not like one specific event, but just uh, we've uh, we've seen the police video interrogation, or the interview that they did. We see him there, so of course we go to visit him. . . . The general sensation we get is that he seems completely detached from reality. When I watched that video . . . of course it's very shocking, watching that. . . . Once that initial shock is gone and [I watched] it again, it's like, he seems completely – from my perspective – completely detached from reality as if he didn't understand what was happening here." He continued, "when we go visit him we certainly don't get the impression it's someone who's done something of this magnitude. He continues to be his gentle self. It's very puzzling to us. He continues to be very gentle and polite . . . the Alek that we knew . . . it's very weird. It's impossible, but it's happened."

Concerning whether Mr. Minassian seems himself, Dad conveyed, "you know, words are tricky, we even struggle to explain it. . . . When I look at it again, remember what I said, him being on the Autism Spectrum, he's never sort of that talkative or expressive, compared to others right, his age. He's more, what's the word? On the scale of excitement he's the least excited . . . we always know when Alek tells us a story, he's never going to be that excited. [But] in that video, it's like it's not even him, like he's completely detached from reality, like he's talking about a movie . . . like it's not real life. . . . So, the reason I'm saying that is that he doesn't express emotion too much . . . but the way he's saying that, he's like a robot, like he's completely unaware of the magnitude of it."

Regarding whether he believes Alek understands the magnitude of it now, Dad informed "no one can say. I can't say for sure, I'm not in his mind . . . it's really hard to express. Sometimes I get the feeling that no, he doesn't understand that magnitude.

That's the sensation we get when we see him. . . . We haven't talked to him about the incident, okay, because we know that, given that the medical assessments are being done . . . we didn't want to sort of interfere with that in any shape or form, so for that reason we haven't talked to him about it . . . just based on how he is, we visit him, we go home, and we look at each other and it's like we have to pinch each other . . . like he's gone for a small crime and will be gone for six months. I remember one time he asked us, 'has this incident impacted you guys in any way shape or form?' He asked that, like he seems completely oblivious to the fact that this has turned our lives upside down." He added, "this was around the time he was being assessed by the doctors, so I guess this was prompted by a question asked by the doctors, that's my guess . . . he came out and asked us and was very curious to know . . . he doesn't seem to understand." Regarding whether this presentation is in keeping with Mr. Minassian's experience of ASD, Dad asserted "No. This is way overboard," adding "in some ways he is very immature, incapable of understanding certain things. So that's true, but this is uncharacteristic. For him to not understand . . . just the fact that he asked us this question . . . is shocking. And the way he was asking, he almost seemed concerned. As though it's just occurred to him, that this has impacted us. . . . For him to ask that question in such an innocent manner, like he wants to know . . . it's almost like it's a revelation to him that this incident is big, that it's not just him. I mean I guess he figures he's in jail, and that's bad. . . . It's like he's not getting what has taken place here."

Dad denied ever hearing Mr. Minassian speak with hostility about women, explaining, "no, never. No aggression, nothing like that, I can't think of any instance that Alek would exhibit anything like that. It's mind boggling." Dad denied Mr. Minassian ever spoke with him about his activities online.

Dad's Understanding of Mr. Minassian's Behaviour

Dad communicated "to me, the best I can describe this is being hit by lightning on a sunny day, twice. I wish I knew [what happened]. There is nothing I can think of that would lead to this. I say this with all honesty, if the police came to us and knocked on our door that day and told us 'your son has been arrested for punching someone' . . . given his personality and the way he was – the most gentle person you can think of, no hint of aggression – to even think of him punching someone in the face, let alone this. It is totally, totally incomprehensible."

When asked if he has any closing remarks for the interview, Dad stated, "I don't know, sometimes I say these things, and the next day it occurs to me I should have mentioned this or that . . . sometimes I don't know anymore what is relevant. I've described his medical diagnosis, his good nature, gentle nature . . . there was no change in behavior that gave us a hint even that something small or big might be on his mind, I don't know what to say. . . . He's obviously had this neurological disorder, he had tics, is there anything more going on in his head? I don't know. I can only tell you what symptoms that we see. And nothing I have seen would even suggest that Alek is capable of punching someone in the face let alone this, so I don't know where to start. I don't know what to talk about. And at least if he punched someone in the face we could sit down and talk about it. . . . I know it's happened, but even theoretically, it doesn't seem possible, knowing the way he is . . . the only thing that is descriptive enough that gets

the message across from my perspective, is like being hit by lightning on a sunny day, twice."

Collateral report from Ms. [redacted] Minassian (herein referred to as Mom), Mr. Minassian's mother
Interview date/time: March 8, 2020; 1000 hrs to 1145 hrs

Writer interviewed Mom, Mr. Minassian's mother, on Sunday, March 8, 2020 for approximately 105 minutes. Overall, Mom's responses impressed as similar to prior interviewee's.

Mom described her relationship with her son, Mr. Minassian, as follows: "in one word: we had a good relationship. . . . Growing up, when he was young, we . . . did the things a son and a mom would do. I'd take him to playgrounds, parks, indoor playgrounds, would read to him. . . . He was a happy kid, even in his adolescent years. We would go to [the] library together." Regarding whether Mr. Minassian could speak with her about things that were bothering him, Mom explained, "he himself wasn't the type that would . . . spill his guts out. He just wouldn't express his emotions, wouldn't express what was eating him. So in that sense, he wouldn't approach me." She maintained that this was consistent with his experience with ASD.

Mom described Mr. Minassian as "overall, he's a gentle person. He does not like to argue. He's never been the kind that would create problems, either at home or at school or anywhere else. He's never been a stir-the-pot kind of person. So, very much to himself and he's always looked [like a] content person. Happy and content." Regarding what she believes Mr. Minassian's best quality to be, Mom explained, "it's like. . . it's a package. What I just described, it's a package. If I could give the package a name, I would say 'nice guy.'" When asked if there is something she would change about Mr. Minassian if she could, she stated, "all I could say is he's my baby. I love him, and I'm going to leave it at that."

Personal and Developmental History
Mom informed Mr. Minassian was born at North York General Hospital, and denied experiencing any issues during pregnancy or delivery. Regarding the rate at which he met his developmental milestones, Mom reported "as far as I can remember . . . he was standing up in his crib at seven months of age, he was walking at twelve months, the one year mark, his grip was good, so in that sense, and potty-training, I can't really remember when he actually started going himself. Those things, none of them were out of the ordinary or different from his peers. It was the speech . . . he was about three and a half. Up to that point he couldn't talk. [His first word] . . . was his brother's name. It took me a few days to realize who he was calling. He was calling his brother." She informed that growing up, Mr. Minassian lived with hrt, Dad, and his older brother, Brother. She identified their family as Christian, though noted they do not practice (i.e. pray together, attend serdades, etc.). Regarding Mr. Minassian's relationship with Brother, she maintained "as a child [their relationship was] very good. [A] true brotherly relationship; cute and in the sense that they liked to play together, and then [Brother would] like to be the older brother, kind of tell him what to do . . . I would read to them,

put them down at night time and read to both of them. Normal brotherly things that kids do. . . . It continued into adulthood. They were like friends."

Mom informed that as a child, "because of [Mr. Minassian's] autism, because he was on the Spectrum, there were things different about him. And by that I mean for his age . . . he had difficulty with his peers. He had difficulty making friends, he was very literal, and he had difficulty reading social cues, he wouldn't make eye contact. So those were things that were noticeably different. He was a happy kid; he was happy and content." Regarding hobbies, she noted "well as I remember, he liked playing on the computer . . . we had a 'Thomas the Tank Engine' set and he loved that, he always played with that. He had Lego, he played with Lego, and we would go to parks and he liked the . . . you know, playing on the swing. . . . As he got older he liked trail biking . . . he would do that with his father and Brother. And he liked reading, he was pretty good at reading at his age."

Mom denied Mr. Minassian found it challenging to follow rules as a child, asserting "if he didn't follow a rule, it wasn't because he was being, like maliciously didn't want to follow. It was because probably he couldn't do it, he needed help with that particular task that we wanted him to do." She endorsed that he threw temper tantrums, noting "yes he did have temper tantrums, he threw tantrums at times but I would say small ones. [Prompt regarding the nature of the tantrums] he would refuse to eat or refuse to move, he would just stand there or sit there. [Regarding crying] yeah, he would cry." Regarding things that would upset Mr. Minassian to cause a temper tantrum, Mom stated, "one thing that comes to my mind first and foremost was missing his favourite TV shows. He really liked to be at home, on time . . . watch from the first credits . . . from the first thing that comes up, he wanted to see all that." She advised he stopped throwing temper tantrums between ten and twelve years of age. Regarding how she would know he was upset when the temper tantrums were not present to indicate the same, Mom conveyed that "it just became that relationship that you have with your child, I'm sure every parent can read their kid's face. That was true for us, too. You could see from him face that something . . . that he's not that happy or content as he always is." She informed Mr. Minassian was disciplined by "time out and loss of privileges, because he loved playing games, and if you take that away . . . that was a big thing for him."

Regarding friendships when Mr. Minassian was a child, she explained, "he had friends, but very limited [in number]. And at a very young age . . . he always had . . . his friends have been from Giant Steps or special ed[ucation] class . . . he had one friend from mainstream education . . . but at later, in later times, when they both got to high school, they both drifted away [from one another]. And I guess that was mainly because . . . they were living in two different cities, so the commute was difficult for both of them."

Mom denied that Mr. Minassian ever did dangerous or impulsive things for fun, initiated fights, engaged in vandalism, set fires, lied or made up stories, or ran away from home. She maintained that he was bullied, however she reportedly could not remember what the bullying entailed.

Traumatic/Adverse Childhood Experience(s)
Mom denied Mr. Minassian has any history of trauma, including accidents, head injuries, significant losses, or abuse. She denied any history of significant family financial challenges.

Family History
Mom denied any family history of mental illness, substance use, behavioural addictions, suicide or attempted suicide, or criminal involvement. She noted that her mother-in-law (Dad's mother) lives with dementia, and her maternal grandmother "passed away because of Alzheimer's."

Education History
Mom informed Mr. Minassian completed high school before attending Seneca college for a software development program. Regarding his academic performance, she noted "in general, he's always had B's and C's, and A's when it came to computer and math." She denied Mr. Minassian ever identified a favourite subject, stating "he never said this particular one is my favourite subject; he never talked about it."

Mom informed Mr. Minassian began attending Giant Steps in grade one, where "the support that he got was very intensive, it was one-on-one and they support the child in different aspects of development. So in that sense, it was really good, the support was really good, and you could tell that he was improving, he was progressing. And that was the whole idea, to give the child the intensive support [so] that they could later integrate the child into mainstream." She informed Mr. Minassian transitioned into the mainstream education system in 2002, where "he always had support in one form or the other." Mom informed Mr. Minassian's transition into the mainstream education system was "gradual. It wasn't like he finished Giant Steps and the next month he was starting mainstream . . . the process was gradual. And by gradual I mean he was actually bussed to the public school and then bussed to Giant Steps, just so he could spend some time in [each school]." Regarding how Mr. Minassian adapts to changes, such as the aforementioned transition, Mom explained, "that is actually one of the problems with the Autistic children, they don't like surprises, don't like changes. . . . [They] need to be aware of it beforehand, need to be aware of changes. And that was one of the things Giant Steps teachers would work on."

Regarding any particular challenges Mr. Minassian experienced in school, Mom reported "it was the challenges that . . . the same challenges [for which] he went [to Giant Steps] in the first place. He went to Giant Steps because he had social difficulties. Because of autism, what autism entails. And every day, they worked on one aspect of it. They had all kinds of therapists and teachers to work with him. And they would give us reports of how he's doing, how he's progressing, how he's coping." She informed he was supported by "speech therapists, therapists to work with kids for their . . . occupational therapists, I would say. They would work with the kids to run and hit the ball and know how – for the physical aspects of movement. And then they had . . . there was the academic part of it, the teachers one-on-one."

Mom denied Mr. Minassian was ever sent to the principal's office or had difficulties with teachers, including female teachers. She indicated the teachers would describe Mr. Minassian as "happy, lovely, even had one teacher, she kept saying he's smart. But then, later on, this was at Giant Steps, and then at the grade school they would say he's good at some subjects and definitely needed help in others."

Employment History

Mom informed Mr. Minassian has held "office jobs . . . all the jobs that he's had has been in the office." She noted he participated in a co-op placement that was "computer-related." Regarding whether he has ever been fired or asked to leave a job, Mom informed "yes, actually, it was more recently." She denied knowing why he was fired. She denied he ever had challenges with supervisors or with coworkers. Regarding whether Mr. Minassian ever had a female supervisor, she reported "yes . . . as far as I know, he had no problem with that."

Regarding Mr. Minassian's time in the military, Mom explained, "I don't really know why exactly he wanted to join. He was determined to go, to join. And unfortunately it didn't work out. He came back and tried to move on. We encouraged him to move on." She reported uncertainty regarding why "it didn't work out." Concerning how she felt when Mr. Minassian informed her of his decision to join, she stated, "initially I was surprised, [and] like any parent [would be], you're proud that your son wants to serve and then on the other hand you're sort of worried – natural emotions that any parent would go through."

Hobbies, Interests, and Social History

Mom informed that in Mr. Minassian's spare time, "he reads, reads a lot. And he's on the computer playing games. Also, he likes to go out on long walks, and he goes to movies. And it's – I mentioned that before he loved to go trail biking with his [father] and his brother. That was something he did in his spare time." Mom denied any knowledge of Mr. Minassian's internet activity.

Regarding the most important people in Mr. Minassian's life, Mom replied "I can't really [say who is the most important], I'm not in his head. . . . I would say, I would guess it's us. Because it's always been the four of us. So I would imagine it's us. Especially growing up, we were always together, we did everything together." In terms of what they connect on, Mom asserted "we've always talked about what was on the news, what was going on in the world. I always tried to talk to him and make sense of what's going on with the news, which part of the news was exaggerated, what was not. Him and I, we liked to watch jeopardy. . . . When it came to computers, I would always joke and ask him to keep it simple . . . so I can understand, and 'keep the details for your dad.' . . . As soon as it became a little too technical for me, 'it's getting too detailed, go talk to your dad [laughing fondly].' And I'm assuming he did."

Mom reported that Mr. Minassian and his friends "played computer games, they went to movies, and then they came home, had something to eat, and actually they did go out bowling as well . . . he liked bowling. The one thing they didn't do was hang out in the mall. They never did that." Regarding whether any of Mr. Minassian's friends were

female, Mom informed, "I mean, he has played with family friends . . . the family friends that we have, they have daughters, and he played with them . . . but it wasn't on a regular basis . . . he has played with them and never had any problems playing with them." In terms of any females Mr. Minassian is close to, aside from herself, Mom noted he is "close with his [paternal] aunt, his teachers – all his specialized teachers were female." Mom informed she has a sister who Mr. Minassian has seen a "few times," noting it would be difficult for Mr. Minassian to form a close relationship with her because she lives overseas.

Mom denied Mr. Minassian ever expressed any views or attitudes about women. She denied anyone has ever complained about his behaviour towards women, stating "complained, no. But comments that he was shy around women." She denied knowing why he was shy around women. Regarding whether Mr. Minassians feels he needs to change the way he speaks or act when around women, Mom conveyed "I wouldn't know if he felt that way, but other than, you know, you could say that he was shy, and people had commented about it." In terms of any specific comments she remembers, Mom stated, "I don't really remember, all I remember is the gist of it, that he was shy." She denied Mr. Minassian ever made comments about women working in or involved with the criminal justice system.

Concerning whether Mr. Minassian ever felt lonely or rejected, Mom expressed "I honestly don't know because, he . . . kept to himself and wouldn't share his emotions, wouldn't share what's on his mind. I would not know."

Relationship History
Mom denied Mr. Minassian has any history of romantic or intimate relationships.

Substance Use
Mom denied Mr. Minassian has any history of alcohol use or substance use.

Physical Health History
Mom described Mr. Minassian's overall physical health as "good," denying any chronic or acute health issues. She added, "he did have tics, Tourette's Syndrome, at one point in time. And at one point it was really bad. But over time it subsided. And even now he has tics. There are definitely . . . you can see it. If you consider that a chronic medical condition." She explained the period during which his tics were "really bad" as "there were a few tics that he would do that it wasn't just one thing. He . . . would do hand movements, finger movements. It was to the point that it would take him longer to write something . . . then he had, around the same time, he would always say that 'there's something in my mouth, rocks in my mouth.' He would always want to spit it out, always spit . . . it was a socially unacceptable thing [to do]. He grew out of the spitting part. The other parts, the subtle hand . . . hand shakes, legs shakes, it's still there, but not as pronounced."

Regarding any hospitalizations for medical reasons, Mom reported Mr. Minassian "had surgery on his . . . at the lower end of his, the very lower end of his spine, where the butt cheeks are . . . actually it was where the butt cheeks meet, because of, there was too

much hair and there was a cyst growing in there and had to be removed and he was hospitalized for that . . . in his teens, I would say he was either sixteen or seventeen [years old]." She noted he also had his wisdom teeth removed. She denied Mr. Minassian has an history of head injuries or seizures. Concerning any issues with sleep, Mom informed "I wouldn't say . . . he wasn't taking medications or trying home remedies to fall asleep, but falling asleep . . . he was never the type of person to put his head on the pillow and fall asleep. It took him a while to fall asleep. [Regarding what caused difficulties falling asleep] I'm not sure, I'm not sure why. I remember at one point, well later on . . . when he developed the tics, with the spitting, he would do that a lot, even when he was laying in his bed . . . later on in his teen years."

Mental Health History

When asked whether she believes Mr. Minassian has a mental illness or ever appeared mentally unwell, Mom explained, "I don't want to speculate, as you can imagine. But I can give you the facts . . . he was diagnosed on the Spectrum, diagnosed as an autistic child. So I can tell you the facts, and emphasize it, that yes, he has always exhibited the autistic characteristics, of a child that is on the Spectrum." She maintained that she first noticed he was developing differently relative to other children when he was approximately two years old. She explained, "at one year old, when he was already walking, he would walk to the wall, and I'll never forget it was . . . a wall in the TV room, and he would . . . hit his forehead to the wall. . . . And we didn't know anything about autism. . . . I would put my hand between his head and the wall. . . . That was the first sort of bizarre thing that he did . . . and then it was the speech, he wasn't talking and the other kids would say words and phrases, he just wouldn't say anything. . . . It was a progression of things. It started like that. We asked the doctor about him hitting his forehead and he asked about speech, and the pediatricians would say 'let's see what happens next' . . . and he went into the school system. . . . [There was then] consensus that yes, there was something wrong, and he had an assessment." She estimated he was five years old, in senior kindergarten, when he had said assessment. Regarding how Mr. Minassian experiences ASD, how it impacts his life, Mom explained "he's been a shy person. And as a grown up, [he is] a shy person."

Regarding whether Mr. Minassian ever saw a psychiatrist, Mom explained, "the medical health, it was sort of under one umbrella. He got assessed, he was placed in Giant Steps . . . it was decided that Giant Steps had the tools to help him, so his help was at Giant Steps. . . . No one really suggested that he be taken to one psychologist or psychiatrist, he was going to Giant Steps."

Mom denied Mr. Minassian has ever been hospitalized for mental health reasons. She further denied Mr. Minassian has ever received a mental health diagnosis or taken medication for mental health. She added, "the only medication was, and this was, again, later on in years, it was for his Tourette's Syndrome. . . . I think it was Klonopin." Regarding its effectiveness, she stated "it did [help] for a while and then he was weaned out of it." She reported Mr. Minassian started and stopped taking Klonopin when he was nineteen years old.

Mom denied Mr. Minassian ever reported experiencing auditory, visual, gustatory, olfactory, or tactile hallucinations, or misinterpreted perceptions. Concerning whether she ever observed Mr. Minassian talking or laughing to himself, she stated "well, he would daydream, he would daydream a lot. That's about it. And he would, you could tell he was daydreaming because he would mumble and talk under his breath, but he always had a smile on his face." In terms of what Mr. Minassian daydreamed about, she stated "at occasions I've asked and he would never go into details, he would just say 'oh, I'm thinking about a scenario.' No, he wouldn't go into detail with me . . . he would take things from TV and spin it in his head a different way."

Mom denied Mr. Minassian ever expressed experiencing or appeared to be experiencing delusions, including: having strange or odd beliefs not shared by others, feeling detached or removed from others, feeling that things around him seemed unnatural or unreal, believing he possessed any special powers or abilities, or believing that he was an important person. She denied Mr. Minassian ever expressed experiences related to thought insertion, withdrawal, or broadcasting, including: feeling people were stealing his thoughts or putting thoughts into his head, feeling like his thoughts were broadcast out loud, or believing that the radio or news were reporting about him.

Mom denied Mr. Minassian ever expressed paranoia or suspicious thoughts that a person or a group of people wanted to hurt him, or thoughts about harming or seeking revenge on anyone. Regarding whether Mr. Minassian ever mentioned feeling scared or frightened about something, Mom informed "uh well, growing up he was scared of dogs for the longest time. He was scared of dogs, he was scared of infinite reflections, of concave reflections . . . he would actually have to turn the spoon the other way." Regarding whether he ever explained why he was afraid of concave reflections, she stated, "no, he would . . . just flip it over and wouldn't give any explanation, but you could see from his face that he was uncomfortable," and would also flip over others' spoons at the dining table. She continued, "and then in his high school years he was scared of sound feedback loops. Oh and he . . . he was scared of holes in sliced bread . . . he had to cut them up or make me cut up the toast . . . in smaller pieces."

Mom denied Mr. Minassian ever exhibited issues related to anger, stating "he never got easily angered." Regarding what kinds of things might anger Mr. Minassian she explained "when he was really young, I think I mentioned that, he just did not like to miss his favourite show. And the thing with his show is we had to be there [so he could see] from the first letter [of the opening credits] to the last credit. . . . It would make him very worried or angry if we weren't home [to set it up on time]." Regarding which particular television program, she informed "I can't remember now to be honest, but it was one of those children's shows. It was either a cartoon, or during his time in the 90s. But he loved Mr. Bean, that's for sure." She denied Mr. Minassian had any challenges with mood, such as extreme low or high moods, or mood swings.

Mom denied Mr. Minassian ever expressed thoughts about suicide or attempted to die by suicide. She denied any self-injurious behaviours.

Criminal History

Mom denied Mr. Minassian had any criminal history prior to the index offence.

Index Offence
Mom denied noticing any changes in Mr. Minassian's daily routine, eating, sleeping, or mood state in the days, weeks, or months prior to the index offence. She denied any increase or decrease in social isolation, and further denied that he exhibited any bizarre behaviours. She denied Mr. Minassian experienced any significant loss prior to the index offence. She described the time leading up to the index offence as "it's been the same for some time now. School life, like, college life. Get up in the morning, get up to go to school and if you're at home, do your homework, and in between he was exercising, walking, you know, the usual kind of schedule that he'd had for some time now. . . . Nothing changed really." She denied Mr. Minassian was using any substances prior to the index offence. Mom denied any knowledge of Mr. Minassian's internet activity prior to the index offence.

In terms of when she saw Mr. Minassian after the index offence, Mom explained, "I can't remember exactly when we saw him. The incident happened I think on a Monday, we definitely didn't see him Tuesday; it was probably two days after that we were able to see him, at least two days after. . . . Don't quote me on the two days, I can't remember. Time definitely had a different meaning for us [at that time]." When asked to describe the time between the index offence and when she and Dad were able to see Mr. Minassian, Mom reported "I think it was periods of shock and disbelief. It was pure shock, pure shock. I can't even put words in it . . . impossible, surreal." Regarding whether she noticed anything different about Mr. Minassian when she saw him after the index offence, she explained, "I mean, obviously he had been through a lot, so yes, it was showing on his face, definitely. He'd been through a lot. And I was, myself, was in a shock. So, um, all I can remember to say that he was, his face was the face of a person who has been through a lot. That's all I can remember. And like I said, I myself was in a shock, I can't remember exactly, you know, can't really remember exactly."

Mom denied Mr. Minassian explained his motivation behind his actions related to the index offence. When asked whether she believes Mr. Minassian appreciates the seriousness of the index offence, she stated "I don't know. It's hard . . . it's just so hard."

Mom's Understanding of Mr. Minassian's Behaviour
Mom explained, "I have no idea why, how, a gentle, easy-going person could end up in this situation. So I'm hoping that the medical assessments would shed a light on this." She further explained, "Shock and surprise and all these are understatements. I just don't know how this can happen to a person that Alek has been. If he had shown any signs or anything that I can put my finger on and say uh huh, this was it, [but] no. We're talking about a gentle, non-confrontational, non-argumentative person. So – impossible. How is it possible? How is this happening? I'm trying to come to terms with that."

Collateral report from Mr. [redacted] Minassian (herein referred to as Brother), Mr. Minassian's brother
Interview date/time: March 8, 2020; 1600 hrs to 1710 hrs

Writer interviewed Brother, Mr. Minassian's brother, on Sunday, March 8, 2020 for approximately 70 minutes. Brother was noted to provide vague responses to writer's questions at times throughout the interview, offering ambiguous statements (for example, "calm, laid back guy, nice guy"). He requested frequent clarification of writer's questions and required frequent prompts from writer for more information. In general, Brother's responses impressed as notably similar to prior interviewees'.

Brother identified himself as Mr. Minassian's thirty-year-old brother with an employment background in banking. As Mr. Minassian's older brother, he has known the subject since he was born. He described their relationship as "good, we've always gotten along, there's never really been any issues between us. . . . We would hang out quite a bit, go to the movies, go bowling, grab sushi sometimes, when we were younger as well we'd go trail biking." Regarding whether Mr. Minassian sought support from Brother if something was bothering him, Brother explained "he wouldn't specifically come to me to talk about any problems, he was a pretty quiet guy, not very talkative." In terms of what they talked about together, Brother reported, "mostly just about the stuff we were gonna do – planning out the movie, which sushi place we were gonna go . . . sometimes if we read different scientific articles or facts, we would share stuff like that. [Prompt from writer for more details] . . . mostly be space-related articles . . . discoveries about the solar system or the galaxy, so I guess astronomy."

When asked to describe Mr. Minassian, Brother stated "like I said, we always got along well. He's a pretty calm, laid back guy, nice guy, not, I mean, not really sure, he seemed to be very content and happy with himself." Regarding what he thinks Mr. Minassian's best quality is, he stated "I'm not sure, it's a little hard to answer, we always got along really well . . . I guess just the fact that any time I wanted to talk or hang out he was always receptive of it. . . . It's not like I'd ever have to push him to hang out or go to sushi or anything." When asked to identify one thing he would change about Mr. Minassian if he could, Brother asserted "honestly, I'm not really sure how to answer this question, he's my brother, we always used to get along very well, I guess I'll just pass on this [question]."

Personal and Developmental History

Brother informed while growing up, "as a family we'd go trail biking, go on camping trips, family kind of vacations." He described Mr. Minassian's relationship with his parents as "it's always been good – good with me, good with parents, everyone in the family." Regarding what Mr. Minassian was like as a child, he informed "well, not too different than right now. He wasn't a very talkative guy, but he was a nice guy . . . he didn't really have too many friends, but he had close friends." Brother denied ever hanging out with Mr. Minassian and his friends and therefore did not know them well, however noted "they would come over to the house" and "watch TV, play video games, go to the movies." In terms of what Mr. Minassian's friends were like, he explained "[I had] very, very, very limited interaction with his friends, because they would come over to play games, I would say 'hi, how's it going,' but that's it." Regarding whether Mr. Minassian had a best friend growing up, he stated, "I mean, he, well he had some friends . . . he did have a really close friend for a number of years, he would visit his house a lot and he would come [to the Minassian's home]."

Regarding the frequency of Mr. Minassian's temper tantrums, Brother stated "yeah, that's like a long time ago, let's say when he was younger than ten, twelve [years old], I don't really remember how often." He described them as "just crying and screaming I guess?" In terms of what would trigger Mr. Minassian's temper tantrums, he asserted "I mean it was so long ago," noting the only trigger he could remember was Mr. Minassian losing to him while playing video games.

When asked how he would know if Mr. Minassian was upset when he was a child, Brother explained "kind of indirectly . . . I would go up to him to start talking or make a joke or try to make a plan to do something . . . [Mr. Minassian would be] even less talkative than usual, less responsive." Regarding how Mr. Minassian would respond when Brother asked what was wrong, he explained "he wouldn't really give a real answer, he'd say 'yeah, everything is okay,' . . . maybe one- or three-word answers."

In terms of whether, as Mr. Minassian's older brother, he ever worried about his brother or felt protective of him, he reported "I mean, I guess – he's my younger brother. . . . The only time I could really . . . maybe just like at school, if the other kids were teasing him or something like that." Brother maintained he saw Mr. Minassian get teased by other children "a couple times," noting "this was at school because there were a couple years when we went to the same school." He described the teasing as "I guess like name-calling, things like that and I would kind of step in to tell them to back off. There were also a couple incidents when I don't know if you'd say they got physical, other kids would throw tennis balls at him." Regarding Mr. Minassian's response, Brother declared, "actually, there would be no response at all. He would literally just be sitting there when tennis balls were thrown at him . . . he would just literally be sitting there doing nothing."

Brother denied Mr. Minassian ever did dangerous or impulsive things for fun, ever initiated fights, engaged in vandalism, set fires, or ran away from home.

Traumatic/Adverse Childhood Experience(s)

Brother denied that Mr. Minassian ever experienced any of the following: significant loss(es) of loved ones, accidents, head injuries, physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or any traumatic experiences. He added, "he was afraid of dogs though when he was much younger, but there were no incidents that you said, but he did have a general fear of dogs."

Family History

Brother denied any family history of mental health diagnoses, issues with substance use, behavioural addictions, suicide attempts, or criminal involvement.

Education History

Brother maintained that Mr. Minassian attended Seneca College following his completion of high school. Regarding whether Mr. Minassian enjoyed Seneca, Brother stated "I guess. It was the program he chose, he graduated, but he would never be like 'oh man this program sucks' or 'these courses are amazing,' he just sort of went to

school and did his thing and did his homework and that was it." Regarding his favourite subjects in school, Brother informed "he didn't specifically talk to me about his favourite subjects in school, but he did have a general interest in science." Brother described Mr. Minassian's academic performance as "consistent through college and high school, mostly B's and C's and some A's thrown in there." Concerning whether Mr. Minassian liked school, Brother said "I don't know if he really liked it or disliked it more than anything else . . . I never heard him tell me or anyone if he was really pleased or happy with the school." Regarding boredom at school or difficulties sitting still in class, Brother informed "I don't know, there's a three year age difference [between us], though we went to the same school for three years, we never had a class together."

Brother denied Mr. Minassian was ever suspended or sent to the principal's office, and further denied any issues with truancy or cheating. He guessed Mr. Minassian's peers would describe him as "[having a] shy personality, [a] shy guy."

Employment History

Regarding Mr. Minassian's employment history, Brother explained "he did software development, like at Seneca [he] studied software development . . . had some co-op thing through the school, I think one of his teachers set it up; he did it for a summer or a semester . . . then two short back to back jobs . . . I don't really remember the company, but it was some sort of software-development role. . . . I guess if you go way back to, I guess when he was fourteen or fifteen he worked at my mom's place of work for a summer or something. However old he was in grade ten – I remember it was early high school." Brother was aware that Mr. Minassian was fired from a job, however informed "I have no idea [why]." Regarding any challenges with Mr. Minassian's supervisors or coworkers, Brother stated, "really not sure, we never really talked about his work or anything."

When asked about Mr. Minassian's time in the military, Brother stated "well, I know that he went there and then he kind of changed his mind and [it] wasn't really the thing for him anymore. I mean, I don't really know what else, what other information to give." Regarding why it "wasn't really the thing for him," Brother asserted "I'm not really sure, when I asked him he just said he changed his mind, didn't really enjoy it anymore." When canvassed for what he thought at the time about Mr. Minassian's desire to join the military, Brother noted "I was pretty surprised myself because he's never really came across . . . it was completely out of the blue . . . it wasn't even like he was thinking about joining, it was like 'I'm joining,' so I was a little caught off guard there. [Prompt regarding his opinion] To be honest I didn't really think he was gonna enjoy it or be into it . . . but he seemed really adamant about it." Brother advised he was supportive of Mr. Minassian's decision because "he's my brother." Regarding why he did not believe Mr. Minassian would enjoy the military, Brother explained "he never came across as a military type of person to me . . . [he is] very laid back, not a talkative type of guy. First of all, it never came up in any conversation we had . . . he was the type of guy who just relaxed with friends, play[ed] games, play[ed] games with me."

Hobbies, Interests, and Social History

Brother identified Mr. Minassian's hobbies as "video games, reading. When I say reading, it wouldn't always be books, it could be online articles as well." Regarding what kinds of things Mr. Minassian was reading online, Brother informed "it was pretty much all scientific articles, at least that's what I thought." Regarding whether Mr. Minassian talked to him about any other online activity, he asserted, "just games and articles, that's it."

Regarding how he would provide emotional support to Mr. Minassian if he needed such support, Brother explained "it never really got to that point . . . I'd go up to him and maybe be telling him something I read or say 'let's grab some food' . . . it would be really hard to get any information from him." He illustrated that when he would ask Mr. Minassian what was bothering him, Mr. Minassian would reply that "everything was okay." Brother continued, "he would never say anything specifically is wrong . . . I was never able to offer him support because I never knew what was wrong." Regarding what that was like for him (Brother), he replied "honestly, it really didn't happen that much, I'm talking about maybe like a couple of times a year . . . might be like he's upset for a day and [then it would pass] . . . it was so short lived."

In regards to whether Mr. Minassian ever felt lonely or rejected, Brother explained "I don't know about lonely or rejected, but I mean he had a few friends, he seemed pretty close with those friends, so I don't know if you would consider that lonely. He was not a social butterfly by any means but he seemed to get along with those friends well." Brother maintained that Mr. Minassian was spending time with friends up until the time around the index offence, informing that there was "not really a long period of time when he wasn't hanging out with his buddies." In terms of whether Mr. Minassian was friends with girls or women in childhood or adulthood, Brother reported "from what I remember they were all boys . . . I don't know if [when] he went to other people's house if there were girls present."

Relationship History

Brother denied Mr. Minassian has any relationship history, to his knowledge. He denied Mr. Minassian ever discussed any romantic issues or interests with him. He further denied any knowledge regarding Mr. Minassian's sexual history or sexual preferences, informing they never discussed the same. Brother denied that anyone has ever complained about Mr. Minassian's behaviour towards women.

Substance Use

Brother informed he and Mr. Minassian "would occasionally grab beer, but no substance abuse . . . maybe once every few months, like at a bar." He advised they would drink "I guess a couple, like two [beers]," noting "I don't know if that actually got him drunk, we'd just grab a few beers and chat a bit." He explained they would "mostly talk about different articles we read, or something one of us discovered [like] a new card game and would try to explain the rules to the other person, stuff like that, I can't really remember anything off the top of my head." Regarding any specific articles he remembers discussing with Mr. Minassian, Brother asserted, "most of the stuff we just talked about were science related things . . . there was a new discovery that the telescopes have found . . . the oldest star in the universe, so he was pretty excited about that discovery. . .

There was like, the biggest black hole that was ever discovered in the universe, he'd get pretty into it. Or like if he discovered some facts about dinosaurs, he'd get pretty excited about that." Brother denied any further substance use, and indicated Mr. Minassian's alcohol consumption was not problematic.

Physical Health History
Brother described Mr. Minassian's overall physical health as "I guess he was a healthy guy, like any time we'd go trail biking . . . he'd keep up." He denied Mr. Minassian was ever hospitalized for any major illness or accidents, noting "maybe in high school [or] early college he had this thing on his back . . . some kind of issue with hair underneath his skin . . . he had to go and surgically remove it." He denied Mr. Minassian has any history of head injuries.

Mental Health History
When asked whether he believes Mr. Minassian has a mental illness or ever appeared mentally unwell, Brother stated "I don't know about mentally ill or unwell . . . he was diagnosed with Autism, so he was deemed to be on the Autism Spectrum, that happened at a very young age . . . outside of that I don't know if he had a mental illness or disorder." He denied noticing anything concerning in regards to Mr. Minassian's mood or behaviour. He denied Mr. Minassian was ever prescribed medication for mental health, noting "but he did have Tourette's Syndrome so he was prescribed medicine for that." Brother denied Mr. Minassian was ever hospitalized for mental health reasons.

Brother denied Mr. Minassian ever reported experiencing auditory, visual, gustatory, olfactory, or tactile hallucinations. Brother denied Mr. Minassian ever expressed experiencing delusions, including: having strange or odd beliefs not shared by others, believing he possessed any special powers or abilities, or believing that he was an important person. He denied Mr. Minassian ever expressed experiences related to thought insertion, withdrawal, or broadcasting, including: feeling people were stealing his thoughts or putting thoughts into his head, feeling like his thoughts were broadcast out loud, or believing that the radio or news was reporting about him.

In terms of paranoid or suspicious thoughts, Brother denied Mr. Minassian ever expressed thoughts that a person or a group of people intended to harm him. Regarding whether Mr. Minassian ever mentioned feeling scared or frightened about something, he stated, "well, besides being scared of . . . actually there were a few things as a kid, like I would remember . . . you know when you go inside of an elevator and some elevators have mirrors on both sides and they reflect each other forever . . . anytime there was kind of two mirrors that would reflect off each other, he was afraid of that. He was afraid of dogs, and okay, he was afraid of . . . you know how spoons are curved in; I believe the term is concave. And I believe when he was really, really young . . . he was afraid of holes in bread."

Brother denied Mr. Minassian exhibited any issues related to anger or mood. He denied Mr. Minassian ever expressed thoughts about suicide or ever attempted to die by suicide. He denied any history of self-injurious behaviours as an adult.

Criminal History
Brother denied that Mr. Minassian has any criminal history prior to the index offence.

Index Offence
Brother denied noticing any changes in Mr. Minassian's daily routine, eating, sleeping, hygiene, or mood state in the days, weeks, or months prior to the index offence. He denied any increase or decrease in social isolation, and further denied any substance use prior to the index offence. He described the time leading up to the index offence as "actually, everything seemed to be the exact same . . . it all happened close to his last weeks of school . . . we were talking about let's go celebrate, go bowling . . . we were making plans to do stuff so nothing was really different."

In terms of Mr. Minassian's presentation when Brother first saw him after the index offence, and whether he noticed a difference in his brother, Brother explained "I mean . . . the thing is . . . I do visit him on pretty much a weekly basis. I talk to him . . . the same way I've always talked to him. I never really asked him anything about the incident . . . to me he just seems like the brother I've always known . . . seems like the same Alek."

Brother's Understanding of Mr. Minassian's Behaviour
Brother explained, "okay so the thing is I really don't know [what happened]. Okay so there's two things . . . I've never, over the phone or in person, asked [Mr. Minassian about his motivation regarding the index offence]. It's been almost two years now . . . and it still seems so surreal . . . there was no indication or hint . . . I would never in a million years think this could happen." He continued, "we were really, really close, always got along, so to see that something like this could happened when . . . doesn't seem like someone like Alek could do something like this." Regarding whether Mr. Minassian appreciates the gravity of his actions related to the index offence, Brother stated "again, like I don't know, I guess for him to be . . . for him to be able to do something like this, I guess he doesn't understand or appreciate what he did. I don't know." Brother denied having any last words or summative thoughts about Mr. Minassian or the index offence.